

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Saint Louis Zoo
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CITY'S TOP FIVE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS OFFER THE COMMUNITY
A DAY TO HONOR PHILANTHROPIST DES LEE

ST. LOUIS —The five members of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD) —the Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri History Museum, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Science Center and Saint Louis Zoo—will join together on Saturday, April 17, 2010, to observe “Des Lee Day.” The St. Louis philanthropist E. Desmond Lee died at age 92 earlier this year.

The five cultural institutions chose to celebrate Des Lee Day in this collaborative way because Lee embodied great collaborative vision for the community. He enabled numerous organizations to carry out community outreach programs, establish professorships with universities, and develop projects that would not otherwise have been possible.

On April 17, the five cultural institutions will offer:

- 20% off merchandise at the Garden Gate Shop, **Missouri Botanical Garden**;
- 20% off merchandise at the Museum Shop, **Missouri History Museum** does not include music, videos, DVDs, sale items, John Pils and Jim Trotter products and cannot be combined with any other discount offers;
- free Family Tours beginning at 2:30 p.m., **Saint Louis Art Museum**;
- free admission to *Moon Rock*, the brand-new musical version of *The Space Show* at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium, **Saint Louis Science Center**;
- free Zooline Railroad rides, **Saint Louis Zoo**.

Making Connections

Following his retirement as a businessman, Des Lee began connecting St. Louis organizations through educational and community partnerships in 1996. He encouraged institutions to establish programs and share resources that would benefit the entire community, particularly those who are underserved.

des lee day
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As a result, today there are over 100 member organizations, more than 30 endowed professors and a number of government agencies and businesses in the St. Louis area involved in the Des Lee Collaborative Vision.

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Missouri Botanical Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.

Missouri History Museum

The Missouri History Museum has been active in the St. Louis community since 1866. Founding members established the organization "for the purpose of saving from oblivion the early history of the city and state." The museum operates the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park and the Library and Research Center at 225 South Skinker Boulevard near the Washington University campus. Visit mohistory.org for more information.

Saint Louis Art Museum

The Saint Louis Art Museum is one of the nation's leading comprehensive art museums with collections that include works of art of exceptional quality from virtually every culture and time period. Areas of notable depth include Oceanic art, pre-Columbian art, ancient Chinese bronzes and European and American art of the late 19th and 20th centuries, with particular strength in 20th-century German art. The Museum offers a full range of exhibitions and educational programming generated independently and in collaboration with local, national and international partners. Admission to the Saint Louis Art Museum is free to all every day.

Saint Louis Science Center

The Saint Louis Science Center is one of the top five science centers in the United States, serving 1.2 million visitors annually. Recently named one of the Top 10 Science Centers for Families by *Parents* magazine and one of America's most visited museums by *Forbes Traveler Magazine* - the only museum in Missouri to be named to either list - the Saint Louis Science Center complex includes a four-story OMNIMAX® Theater, the air-supported EXPLORADOME and the James S. McDonnell Planetarium. Its mission is to ignite and sustain lifelong science and technology learning. For more information, visit slsc.org.

Saint Louis Zoo

The Saint Louis Zoo is widely recognized for its innovative approaches to animal management, wildlife conservation, research and education. One of the few free zoos in the nation, it attracts about 3,000,000 visitors a year. The Zoo has been named America's #1 Zoo by Zagat Survey and *ParentingMagazine*. The Zoo's web site is www.stlzoo.org.